

THE LACLEDE BLADE.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

Our Regular Correspondent Writes From the National Capitol.

It is a rather interesting indication of the feelings throughout the great West that the trans-Mississippi commercial congress should have turned down Mr. Bryan as it did. This matter has its hinge in Washington, not only because of Mr. Bryan's White House-ward looks, but also because Secretary Root and a number of other government officials were honored guests before the congress, and it was shown by the outcome that their counsels rather than those of the eminent Nebraskan prevailed.

Secretary Root, bearing a message from the administration that could hardly be mistaken, spoke earnestly in favor of a ship subsidy bill and also said certain things in favor of the Monroe doctrine which were grateful to the people at large and which the South American diplomats were also doubtless glad to hear. Then arose Mr. Bryan. He ignored ship subsidy; he said nothing about the Monroe doctrine, and he presented to the convention two resolutions, the one favoring international arbitration, on which he had made his reputation before the inter-parliamentary union in England, and the other characteristically democratic, denouncing all trusts and monopolies of every sort.

Note the result. The convention knew that the present administration was doing all it reasonably could in the matter of "trust busting." It also knew that we stood for international arbitration, witness the attitude of the president in issuing the first call for the reassembling of the Hague conference. But it turned down these two resolutions of Nebraskan origin, and it incorporated in the report of its

rejection of the Monroe doctrine, and a further endorsement, not of the ship subsidy bill, but of the upbuilding of the American merchant marine, with the incidental remark that it agreed thoroughly with the presentment that had been made by Secretary Root.

This sidestepping of the subsidy bill proposition was no doubt a judicious avoidance of trouble. The ship subsidy bill is going to be an expensive luxury. It probably will secure the results at which it aims, but it has acquired during the past session of congress a "yellow dog" reputation, and there will be many hard things said when the bill is finally forced to a

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passage.

This promises to be an interesting congressional session. The president will have behind him the support of many members in both houses for the things that he proposes doing. At the same time he has in mind some things that will cause a decided dissension among the members of the majority, and there will be cliques and internal intrigues beside which the insurrections of the last congress will be apt to look small. The inheritance tax is one of these things. Such legislation is contemplated and almost certainly will be pushed. There is also a strong sentiment for tariff revision which will have to be reckoned with, but the stand-patters, who are opposed to all talk of tariff adjustment, see in the inheritance tax an additional menace to their position. One need only look back to the days of the Spanish war to find what an inheritance tax is likely to bring in. There was a graduated duty of this sort imposed among the war taxes. It did not last quite four years, but, starting with \$1,000,000 the first year, it had produced \$5,200,000 in the third year and was progressing at the rate of \$7,000,000 a year when it was repealed. Now if the president starts in seriously with his avowed proposal to reduce swollen fortunes, it is a certainty that this inheritance tax law will not be long in bringing in \$20,000,000 a year. This will be very nice for the poor taxpayer, but it will more than ever increase his desire to see the tariff reduced to a point where it will not produce so much revenue. This is where the stand-patter will feel the shoe pinch, and it is only natural that he will not look with favor on any law that will weaken his position.

Attention is being called to more trouble in the interior department. Secretary Hitchcock is still busy with his effort to run down the Wyoming land frauds and fasten the guilt wherever it may belong, whether on the Union Pacific road or the officials of the land office, or both. Now there arises more trouble. It is shown, though not by conclusive legal evidence, that the Colorado Fuel and Iron company has been doing business with the interior department on an extensive scale. This tallies with the report brought home from the West by Judge Prouty, of the interstate commerce commission, that the Colorado Fuel & Iron, the Utah Fuel company and a number of other allied mining and railroad interests have been having a perfect carnival of good things out of the governmental land-larder for many years past. This report of Judge Prouty has never been committed to print, but it will furnish interesting reading, and it tallies closely with current reports that an ex-official of the interior department has been maintained for some years in Washington as a lobbyist before the interior department and before congress, where the interests of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company were in jeopardy. The secretary of the interior has begun an investigation on this case, but in the nature of things he cannot finish it in his present term of office, and it will be another legacy turned over by him to prospective Secretary Garfield.

A decision has been reached by Postmaster General Cortelyou to give the contract for printing United States postage stamps to the bureau of engraving and printing after all, in spite of the fact that the bureau was slightly underbid by the American Bank Note company on proposals for the stamps a few weeks ago. The difference in favor of the lower bid amounted to about \$17,000, but there was no mandatory law which would compel the acceptance of this bid, and the postmaster general decided that, all things considered, it would not be economy to throw the postage stamp plant of the bureau out of commission and leave the machinery standing idle, or else sell it probably at a loss, to the company which had put in a lower bid for the stamps.

Outwits the Surgeon.

A complication of female troubles with catarrh of the stomach and bowels had reduced Mrs. Thos. S. Austin, of Leavenworth, Ind., to such a deplorable condition that her doctor advised an operation, but her husband, fearing fatal results, postponed this to try Electric Bitters, and to the amazement of all who knew her, this medicine completely cured her. Guaranteed cure for torpid liver, kidney disease, biliousness, jaundice, chills and fever, general debility, nervousness and blood poisoning. Best tonic made. Price 50c at W. B. Barton's drug store. Try it.

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